and give place to their cooperative rival.

a capital never greater than \$3,600, the business of peculiarities which experience had suggested. One

the first year amounted to \$7,340 20. By the end of the first year of operations a great of the "Workingmen's Charitable Co-operative As error in the scheme was discovered and abandoned. sociation of Charlestown and Vicinity." As co-opera-The par value of the shares had been fixed at \$20. It was too high, and the effect was to limit the number of stockholders and the amount of capital-the first requisites to success. Few operatives had \$20 present organization which are worthy the consideto put into any enterprise, and fewer still to invest what little they had in any enterprise of which they knew nothing. It was decided to lower the value and increase the number of shares. Many advocated fixing the former at \$5 and the latter at 1,400; but printing, &c. The profits are divided on a peculiar it was finally decided to put the figures at \$10 per share and 100 shares. Instead of the 130 shares previously issued, 652 were now sold; and instead of 50 stockholders 120 now became personally and pecuniarily interested in the success of the store. The outside trade was naturally increased through the influence of the additional stockholders, and the basi ness rapidly enlarged. I do not know the amount of business done the second year, but the profits, as officially reported, amounted to \$5,450. A sinking fund of \$545 was established; \$2,500 was invested in real estate, and \$1,709 84 was spent in "fixed stock." The various dividends on the second year's business were as follows:

10 per cent of profits for sinking fund.

10 per cent of profits to stockholders on their stock.

64 per cent went to stockholders on the amount of their

41 per cent went to non-stockholders on the amount of their purchases.

31 per cent total dividend.

I am assured from another source that these dividends were over and above another of 8 per cent declared as interest on the capital, making a total of about 30 per cent profit divided among the cooperatives. I do not know the result of the past year's operations, the official reports not yet being published: but I have been told that it has been even more marked than in preceding years.

THE WOR ESTER STORE. The Worcester Store was organized in 1806, principally by the operatives in the Bay State Boot and Shoe Factory. The capital was fixed at \$5,000, in 1,000 shares of \$5 each. At the time it was proposed to begin only 37 shares were taken by operatives, giving a capital of only \$180. The managers represented the condition of affairs to Messrs. Isaac Davis and H. H. Bigelow, two large manufacturers of the town, the latter of whom was particularly interested in cooperation in manufactures. These gentlemen examined the project, and subscribed for 100 shares each, making the total shares to begin with 237 and the capital \$1,185. The first mistake-resulting from an undue influence of one of the 100 shareholders. Mr. Bigelow, who naturally desired to know how his money was to be managed-was the selection of a Superintendent with experience in the trade and the fixing of his salary at too high a figure. Under his management the business for the first six months was a complete failure. Numerous dissensions arose, and the personal unpopularity of the Superintendent led to his removal. Mr. Bigelow became nervous over the chosen successor, and decided to sell his stock. The managers represented that to purchase his stock would, at that time, "swamp the concern." Mr. Bigelow, thinking that such was the inevitable fate of the establishment, under the new management, preferred to withdraw. The Managers then went to Mr. Lucius B. Pond, a large capitalist and manufac torer of the town, and represented their condition to him. He carefully examined the books of the Store, saw the condition the business was in, and agreed to take the stock. Handing a check to the spokesman of the Managers, he said:

"Here is \$1,000-all I can subscribe by law. Take it and use it, repay it if you can, but if not well and good. But if you need more to set you on your legs, let me know. I will gladly give as much more to have the factory operatives establish and demonstrate their ability to conduct a co-operative store at Worcester."

Only \$500 of Mr. Pond's subscription was finally necepted by the Board, and the stock of the dissatisfied member was bought in. The new Superintendent was a young man of experience and industry, who materially reduced the expenses. In a few months the business began to pay, and is now established on a paying basis. Five hundred and sixty of the 1,000 shares have been sold, and the paid in capital is \$2,500. A large percentage above the surplus fund dividend was declared in January, 1809, and a still larger one will be in January, 1870. The assets at the last report, Nov. 9, 1868, exceeded the liabili-When I was in Worcester the other day, the Superintendent was on the eve of moving into new quarters-one of the handsomest stores in the town. This store is in the same town with the successful club store of Samuel A. Pratt, esq., described in a former letter. There is no rivalry whatever between the two; nor has the Co-operative Store met with opposition from other merchants.

NORTH BRIDGEWATER STORE.

North Bridgewater has a Lodge of the Knights of St. Crispin, the strongest Trades-Union in the State, which numbers 650 men. Several members of this Lodge attempted, in 1868, to get up a Co-operative Association, but were able to dispose of only 140 shares at \$5 each, thus raising \$700. This was not enough to begin on, and the Lodge voted to take 100 shares, paying for them out of its fund, The capital stock was thus increased to \$1,200 and on this sum the Co-operatives determined to begin. But unexpected difficulties presented themselves. The merchants of North Bridgewater, fearing the effect on their trade of the establishment of a store to be conducted on a plan calculated to reduce and regulate prices, and to monopolize in time the retail trade of the town, consulted together and succeeded in preventing the ec operatives from securing a store-room. Weeks were spent in fruitless search, until the co-operatives were driven to purchase an old stable or barn on the edge of the town. This they fitted up as a store-room at a cost of half their capital. With the remaining \$ 100 the agent went to Boston and bought all the goods possible for the amount. On the opening day of the new store, \$200 worth of supplies were sold. The money was sent to Boston and turned into stock. On the second day \$200 more of cash was taken in, and furned into stock, thus keeping up the supply. And Thus the capital was turned over and over at a rapid Tate and good profit.

The regular merchants seeing the probable suc cess of the co-operatives, tried the desperate game of putting down the prices below Boston wholesale rates : and at first the demoralization of the operatives threatened to follow. Many hastened to abandon the co-operative store to buy at lower rates from the other stores. The officers of the Lodge of St. Crispin called a meeting, sent to Boston for the principal officers and orators of the various Labor organizations, and through them urged on the operafives to sustain their store. They were told of the effect of similar stores elsewhere in regulating vices. They were made to understand that if the operative store should be broken down, the requr merchants would return to old prices. This last ument led the people to comprehend the trouble,

I the result was a return to the co-operative store. agent of this store had meantime bought heavily heir rivals at their low rates, and sold at an ance to the stockholders. Forced at length to up their prices to a paying standard, the rival rehants found the co-operative store underselling them with goods purchased of them. This ended the emposition to the movement. During the first 24 avs of its operation, the store on \$600 capital made clear profit of \$210; and in three months the profits calized amounted to \$865. At the present time the store is selling from \$1,600 to \$1,800 worth of stock

merchants were compelled to abandon their scheme began. When the new law was adopted in May. 1866, it was reorganized, dropping several of its ob On this plan, and under these circumstances, with | jectionable features, and adopting two or three other of the features omitted was a part of the original title tion is m no sense a charity, but is rather based on the very opposite idea of self-help, the offensive word was dropped. Among the peculiarities of the ration of co-operatives, present and prospective, are the following: An admission fee of \$1 over and above the charge for the stock is required of each member; it is devoted to paying the expenses of meetings, system. First of all 10 per cent is taid aside, as the law requires, as a sinking fund. Next, 8 per cent on the capital is laid aside as interest. All-not a percentage only, of the profits derived from sales to stockholders-are returned to them in the form of a "trade dividend," thus furnishing stockholders their goods at actual cost. Next, two-thirds of all profits derived from sales to new stockholders is returned to them, each sharing according to the amount of his trade. Of the remainder of the profits, 4 per cent is puld to members as a stock dividend, the balance going to swell the sinking fund.

The business of the first year ending Sept. 7, 1865, vas conducted on the "club system;" it amounted to \$70,030 63; the profits paid in dividends aggregated \$779 87. During the last quarter of this year the Association reorganized under the new law, and it was decided, as a measure calculated to extend trade and attract custom, to pay a dividend to new stockholders on the amount of their trade with the store, and a system of tickets or checks, like those adopted at Fall River and described elsewhere, was introduced. The gratifying result for 1866 is shown by the following figures: Amount of trade, \$81,058; otal dividends over and above sinking fund, \$2,485 17. Of this amount \$838 67 was paid to the non-stockholding customers. The importance of attracting "outside custom" is shown by these figures. Of course, in a co-operative association the chief profit is made not on sales to the members themselves, to whom the profit is returnable, but on the trade to new memhers. The more of these the greater the business, and the larger the percentage of profits on the same amount of business. It will be seen by comparing the above figures, that while the business was increased by the adoption of this policy only oneseventh the profits realized were three and a half

times as large as before. On this nearly perfected system the establishment has since been conducted, each year witnessing an acrease of trade, capital, stockholders, and profits. In October, 1806, the 1,900 shares originally issued were sold, and the number was increased 200, making the capital stock \$7,000; six months later a further increase was demanded, and 100 more shares were issued; three months later these were absorbed and an increase of 1,000 shares was decided upon, making the capital stock \$12,500 in 2,500 shares of \$5 each. At the end of that year, 1867, 2,431 shares were sold to 464 members. The store had beside about ,000 regular non-stockholding customers. The folowing is a tabular statement of the amount of trade, dividends, &c., for the five years of its opera-

Tyest. Amount of Trade. 1805. \$70,030 63 1806. \$1,038 09 1877. 122,925 00 1808. \$235,861 27 1809. 173,938 00	Total Dividends. \$579-87 2,485-17 4,293-31 4,528-81 2,148-90	Per et. Profia. 16.6 12 10 9.9 10	
Total\$693,742 90	\$14,186 06	58.5	
nal average, 138,748 58	2,837 21	11.7	

Of this total of profits which, it must be remem sered, is exclusive of the amount placed to the redit of the sinking fund, \$5,053 87 were paid to tockholders as the profit on the sales to them, and \$1,458 44 were paid the same as a stock dividend; while \$1,670 97 were paid to non-stockholders as twothirds of the profits realized on their custom. The capital stock paid an average interest of 11.7 per ent over and above the 10 per cent required by law to be paid into the sinking fund-or, in other words, a total of 21.7 per cent in all. To most practical grocers this will appear a very handsome return on eve years operations, with a capital varying from \$800 to \$12,000.

The great error of the management of this Association, as of most of the others, has lately become apparent to the Board of Managers, and how to remedy t is a question sgitating the Association. The error lies in the disbursing of the profits-scattering them to the four winds instead of hearding them; and the managers appreciate the fallacy of distributing in insignificant sums to individuals the large amount of ties by \$2,500. A "trade dividend" of 2 per cent was the aggregate profits realized. Here in five years, declared last year, on which non-stockholding cus- for instance, \$12,813 28 have been distributed among tomers realized all manner of sums, from 25 cents to several hundred-over a thousand individuals-in sinis ranging roth occ. to as many domains—the many ority of them being so apparently insignificant as to be looked on as worthless for any practical purpose other than the purchase of a few eigers or a glass or wo of grog. "Most of the customers," said Mr. Spaulding, "spend their dividends before they leave Spaulding, "spend their dividends before they leave the store, or put the cash in their pockets as spending-money." The profits—very considerable in the aggregate—are simply wasted, as no merchant in business for himself would think for a moment of wasting his profits. Instead of being thus lost, the managers are now arguing that they ought to go to swell the capital stock. The leading members are agitating two plans. The first is the payment of all dividends in stock—the simplest and safest way, as it keeps the money employed in developing the one business to its fullest extent. The second plan embraces the addition to the business of a co-operative savings bank, the dividends to be placed to the credit of individuals, and the aggregate deposits to be loaned at interest and on security to members only. Either plan is far better than the present system, and one or the other will probably be adopted.

OTHER STORES.

I have chosen to give the story of these four stores s illustrative of the operation of the forty-odd others in the State. There are others, however, which have their peculiarities. The Springfield store, for instance, grew out of a movement on the part of the workmen in the shops of the Boston and Albany Railway to buy their soap cheaply. Naturally, workers in iron use a large quantity of soap, and the men in the railway shops bethought them of buying by the box instead of the bar. Little experiences educate more rapidly than grand theories. "From one man's buying," says The Boston Journal of a few days ago, "at a jobbing figure, a box of soap for himself and fellows to use in the shop, the business has grown till it compasses the supplies of flour, sugars, and most of the groceries required by fifty families. The accounts show a monthly disposal of 100 barrels of crackers, 200 barrels of flour, and 28 barrels of kerosene, with 200 boxes of raisins and 30 chests of tea per year, with potatoes, beans, and apples to match. Something is done, also, in meats, butter, and cheese. The prices are claimed to be about 20 per cent off from the rates of the retail stores."

The Haverhall store was begun by an effort of operatives to get their coals cheaply, and during the first year of its operation, 4,000 tims were sold at retail, at earge prices. In the same way, the Salem store makes a specialty of flour, and has sold, this store, for instance, grew out of a movement on the tail, at cargo prices. In the same way, the Salem store makes a specialty of flour, and has sold, this year, 4,000 barrels at cost to its stockholders.

FAVORITE STOCKS. I have explained in a former letter the effort at legislation to make stocks in cooperative associations favorite ones with the working classes. By the amended law, these stocks, to the amount of \$20, are exempted from attachment. One or two of the stores have adopted a policy which further tends to make their stocks favorite ones with the poorer classes. The Fall River store, for instance, while loing a strictly cash business, has a regulation au-thorizing the Board of Managers, or Superintendent, norizing the bosta of Managers, or Superintendent, or give credit to any member to the amount of his tock, provided the Managers or Agent satisfy themelyes that the member asking it is in integent circumstances and needing assistance. The operation of this law is best exclained by an incident which, I am told centred during the Winter of 1868-9. A stockholder corred during the Winter of 1868-9. A stockholder of the amount of \$50 fell ill of typhoid fever, and was mined for six weeks to his bed. When taken ill s had just paid his last savings into the store for ock, and while ill was wholly without income save teh small sums as his wife could earn at washing, c. He asked credit from the store and received it, has saving him from the alternative of selling his o,k at a rainous rate, or going in febt elsewhere it his supplies. He received regular supplies of coal, rovisions, &c., during his whole illness. At the end (the six weeks when ready to return to work he the six weeks when ready to return to work be

CO-OPERATION ABROAD.

RUSSIA

RUSSIAN LABOR MOVEMENT-THE GUILD LAW-KNAVISH MERCHANTS - GROWTH OF THE BURAL COMMUNES-FAIRS OR MOVING CEN-TERS OF COMMERCE-FUTURE OF THE RUS-SIAN LANGUAGE.

BARCELONA, Dec. 7 .- In my recent letter on the Russian Industrial movement I merely arrived at that point where two great civil powers suddenly found hemselves at variance with each other by reason of two powerfully represented administrations peculiar in neage and character-the one the "Vôtché," or communal farms and villages of the original inhabitants, the sher the Muscovite Centralization, or the war power of the invaders, which had so softened its reign over these enslaved communities, whose entire philosophy was ounded, and had for centuries been practiced upon prinuples of peace and equality, as to nominally accord them their primeval rights. These reinstated rights are denominated the alonomic populaire. It is easy to perceive that these two powers are radically opposite, both in method and detail; the one being sullenly monarchical, the other excessively democratic; the one rich, brilliant, enlightened, by reason of contacts with intellectual nations, as well as by its vast wealth, exacted from its labor ele ment, the other benumbed by degradation, and unintelectualized by that freedom of opinion which their system creates when allowed its natural liberties. It is easy to perceive that the Muscovite contralization must, course of time, disappear before the "Vetche popunire" and by the autonomy of the province, the "city" must lose its significance; for should the liberties of the communes be left unenthralled the city which is now the dominant power, must be reduced to its title and a pat-

rimonial Poncière.

To prove this it is only necessary to refer to the statistical tables which I have collected simply to show the magnitude and tendencies of these Republican plantations. There were, before the emancipation, about illes or cities, which formed the capitals or chief centers of all these agricultural communities. The number of these agricultural communes is greatly in excess of this, as the centers or villes are used as chief markets, whose functions interlink themselves in aid of the rural villages, their auxiliaries. These centers are taxed a stated figure each, and the Government, which the move ment denominates the Imperialism, has increased the augmentation is considered a tyrannical strategy of the higher authorities to force taxation upon the communes, and forms an important point of discussion among the coporators. These 550 chief centers they hold to be so many nests of plunder for the functionaries of imperialism. anuaber to 550 in order to augment the revenue. This

many noise of planets for training.

Among these communes as among all other kinds of soricides there exist the merchants or interchangers. These, however, stand a poor chance here, for two reasons: First, because the system of the communal villages is such that tradesmen are not necessary; and, secondly, the "Guild Law" of the Government reduces their profits to almost nothing, while it aggravates the people by the exactions and tricks of the merchants whose knavery is pardonable only by reason of unavoidable circumstances. To become a merchant at all the candidate must register himself by paying a guild or license. The government has found that these solidarities or rural communes, are, after all, the basis of its wealth, and is seeking to multiply them also to introduce their principle into the cities, wildle many of the merchants are discouraged and abandon themselves to intemperance; and I am assured that the average of sucides is twenty per cent higher among them than in any other class. Of the 60,00,000 inhalutants of Russia, there are 4,000 merchants of the first class. Of the second class, 11,432; and of the third, 315,743. This makes a much smaller average of sellers, than is often found elsewhere, in proportion to the productus population.

From these statements and figures it is easy to observe that Russian Industry, in view of its recent liberties granted by the Czer, is in a fair way of development. The monopoly of merchants which forms a twenty basis of the new industrial economy that astonishes the world with its cooperative system classwhere is almost entirely ruled out, or rather never has been able to obtain a foothold, and the question has only to develop upon old roots without destoying or eradicating local difficulties which shackle its progress else where. As for the quarrels and litigations that now torment the communal villagers, Among these communes as among all other kinds of

is thost destoying or eradicating local difficulties which chieftle its progress elsewhere. As for the quarrels and itigations that now terment the communal villagers, they appear only to be troubles that naturally supervene upon great and unexpected events. The subject seems a very important one at this moment, since with it is obved the question of the tenure of lands; and it these social really possess the intelligence and susceptibility of enlightenment and progress claimed for them, there may, in the far East, be a problem solved which will yet command the initiation of the progressive West. Russia to call glitchment and progress changes for them, there may, in the far East, be a problem solved which will yet command the institution of the progressive West. Russia is in many parts the by settled, but the cities are few. More than 50 per cent of her population are in the contry. The merchant, therefore, who always seeks the mart, occupies an insignificant part, and as a consequence there is comparatively no strife between profit—and consumer, no bourgeoise, no fixed centers of commerce has taken another four of the commerce has taken another four of the peculiar to Russia, which in itself deads yetten very peculiar to Russia, which in itself deads yetten very peculiar to Russia, which in itself deads yet the incentive for city growth. The cotton manufactured in the people at the fairs. Not only the cotton, westen and other woven goods from a discusse are thus disposed of, but also all other fairs are foreign and domestic, which is a featernal dearering way, strongly analogous to the patriarch at type of the more ancient names.

The communication to design and domestic patriarch at a type of the more ancient names.

The communication there are an industrious peace loving people. They pessess a very strong attachment

The communists of these are an industrious peaceloving people. They peasess a very strong attachment
for their homes, and are peculiarly separated from Europeans by lanzuage and habits. Prof. Vogt whose reputation as a philologist is well earned, informs me that their
language has points worthy of attention, and is exclude to
become one of the most preminent tongues of the world.
It is rich in terms and extremely forcible in expression;
and unlike most other languages that have undergone the
ordeals of time and diffusion, remains pure. Even on the
very frontiers where other spacehes degenerate into local
verusculars, the Russian preserved itself intact. The
cause of this is that it is so different from its neighboring
tengues as to be incapable of, or have no affinity for, absorbing them.

FRANCE.

A CO-OPERATIVE BAKERY IN LYONS. LYONS, Nov. 18.—The friends of cooperation think it strange that I should overlook their large and sometimes brilliant organizations to write a whole letter bout so comparatively small a thing as this cooperative bakery in the suburbs of Lyons; but they do not seem to alize the immense influence which their unostentations bread-factory exercises in keeping down the prices of that important article. And the reason why I choose this subject is, that it seems to me to be one of the most necessary branches of the whole social movement. If ur honest mechanics in New-York would imitate this enterprise and establish upon this extremely simple principle a smart cooperative bakery, I have n doubt they would cheapen their living by it at least 25 per cent. Out of the 37 workingmen's societies of economy in this city, hav-ing an aggregate of 7,000 members, and doing a busiens, for the purpose of furnishing themselves pure bread at cheap rates. They chose for their location the Rue Damont d'Urville, a locality little frequented and little hnown, yet possessing health and space, and began by the old way of paying in regular subscriptions, which, however, in France seldom reach a higher figure than one or two frances a month. With an extremely small capital they erected their furnaces, and, several bakers joining, they succeeded in substiting their labor where money lacked; in short, they worked upward from an inferior position, instead of downward from a superior, thus following the conditions of true cooperative success.

necess.
The society has gradually enlarged in numbers and business until it counts a regular membership of 600 heads of families, and has, therefore an insured custom of 600 households, and is doing a business of 200,000 francs a year. It does not seek to distribute dividends,

of 600 households, and is doing a business of 200,000 francs a year. It does not seek to distribute dividends, being satisfied with its success in improving and cheapening goods. It has, like the great cooperative kitchen at Grenoble, a reserve find for equalizing the prices, acting as a reservoir of supply in times when bread is dear. This plan is a sure preventive of monopolies and collusions of the city bakers. The cooperative bakery can, and always does, sell just two centimes cheaper than any other shop. The result is that every time the outsafe bake shops attempt to raise the bread rates, honsekeepers flock afresh to the co-operative bakery, either to enroll themselves as members or as customers for the mement, and old-fashioned dishonesty is thus gradually forced to yield to the economy of the hour.

But I propose to disease this subject further, since I have gained some important statistical proofs apropos to the advantages derivable from the co-operative bakery, if it can be established in all its parity in the city of New-York. MM, Bouget fof this society) and Boyet, managers of the bakery department of the Society de Beauregard, assure me that flour costs, from year to year, an average of 535 francs, gold, the 200 pounds. In quality this flour, though very wholesome, is dark, and is not, if I indeerightly, as good an article as is purchased in New-York at an average of \$9 or \$10 per barref of 200 pounds, wholesale. Now, in the French bread, which is conceded to be the best in the world, there enters only 25 per cent of water, whereas in the American loaves, which are whiter and more beautiful in outward appearance, there is from 35 to 45 per cent of water. Hence the evident policy of aching bread by the loaf instead of by the weight. I and more beautiful in outward appearance, there is from 15 to 45 per cent of water. Hence the eyident policy of selling bread by the loaf instead of by the weight. I venture to say there is not one bread vendor in twenty in New York who knows the weight of his merchandisc; whereas here in France the weighing of bread is reduced to the very extreme of exactitude—not upon the magnatic spring-scales hour in the detail. to the very extreme of exactitude—not upon the miscrable spring-scales hang in the darkest corner of
the salessoom, but with the Government balance
adjusted to the requirements of law, and placed upon the
counter in plain view. Again, the cooperature do not
study the subject of dividends, but rather that of cheap
rates and fair measures. But I have not mentioned that
for the same price, viz., an average of 35 to 38 centimes
the kilogram, they also distribute this bread, friesh from
the ovens, to the household every morning. At 35 frances
gold the 250 pounds, the gross expense of floar is streater
than it is in America, poind for pound; yet, while the
cooperators get their bread delivered to them at about
29 cents, such as contains only 28 per cent of water, the
American public are paying from 5 to 75 cents per pound
for an article less wholesome, containing 38 to 65 per cent
of water, and they must plod after it at that. Again,
coul, faggods, and sail, are also articles for which the
Society is obliged to pay considerable sums. The number
of paid workmen necessary to conduct this Cooperative
Bakery is nine, including carriers, and these have

arises from the relative cheapness of other articles. The baking of bread is, in every respect, a trade; and although it is practiced on a small scale in families, yet experience proves that there can be no considerable percunary advantage derived from it; beside it must be classed among the true drudgeries which simil scale in Kitchens so ununcrifully impose upon feurales. Mothers and daughters are seldom adepts in practical chemistry, and hence the bad quality and the small quantity of bread used in many households. But it is in Europe, especially France, the maxim that "bread is the sind" of life" is most applicable. The art of producing it in combinations wherein the utmost of the nutritive principle and wheat—as succharine, relatin, ginten, &c.--is practiced with the least loss through faise affinities and exaporation, is better known to the French baker than perhaps to any other, speaking in gueral terms, and as he practices this art on strictly scientific principles, he produces an article that adjusts itself better to the digestion than to the eye. The consequence is that the Frenchman has a digestion unabused by those hostile combinations that neutralize the food of the American working classes. These are the results of fastidiousness and ignorance. Beautifulioaves, sweetened pastries, and such things, destroy their digestion and squander their money. The Frenchman, on the contrary, adjusts his eye and appetite to the unperverted demand of nature, and his eye, his smile, his raidy counterance, and inimitable geniality are the outward signs of an inward harmony sud health. Broad forms ever three-fifths of his nourishment. These figures and facts solve the problem as to how these people, working on a salary of three to five france a day of it and 12 hours, can manage to exist. But they do exist, and are gayer and happier than those whe work less time on larger wages, and consume the indigestible and costly knick-knacks of the American table.

FINE ARTS.

THE THOMPSON PICTURES.

The catalogue does not exaggerate when it calls this the most numerous and costly collection of paintings ever offered to the American public. Precisely how large it is we cannot tell, for scores of pieces are still, at our writing, unnumbered and unhung. It fills three large rooms, and judged by appearances might fill another. Mr. Thomas Thompson, who died in this city last Spring, was the son of a picture collector, and from his father inherited a love of art, and a passion for owning its works. In 1852 he lost by a conflagration in Boston a collection which had cost him more than \$90,000; but, nothing daunted, he began again to purchase and keep with a zeal that accumulated this body of more than 2,000 canvasses. The collection is, as might be expected, very promiscuous. It comprises examples of many schools and masters, ranges through a great variety of subjects, and is of almost every degree of merit. Mr. Thompson was no doubt a fair judge of pictures. He had, we are told, studied art, and was acquainted with art dealers; but men who have a passion for accumulating are seldom very fastidious, and it was unavoidable that a good many indifferent things should crowd in at his hospitable doors. Some pictures he purchased of needy artists to relieve their poverty, and some he bought of young artists to give them a start in their career. It need not be said that in such cases the money was commonly given to the artist, not to the art. Very many of the paintings evidently came tuto his possessi in this way. We observe the crude attempts of men who afterward became famous, owing their fame in some degree to the good friend who smiled on their young ambition; and some bear the names of men who did nothing mere, and are forgotten. Here are some forty pieces by ibert Bierstadt, all done in his earliest manner, crude, old, flat, interesting as examples of beginners' work, but ontaining no indication of future brilliancy.

It must be remembered, too, in justification of Mr. Thompson, whose judgment certain visitors were disposed to rate below its worth, that the teste in art was icious and false half a century ago. It is indeed surprising that a collection that was begun so late as 1852 should contain so small a portion of works belonging to the new age. With the exception of Bierstadt, hardly one of our own living artists is represented by even a single specimen of work. And of the foreign artists most familiar to us by their productions or their reputation, scarcely a name occurs on the catalogue. The explana tion of se singular a fact must be, not that Mr. Thompson was destitute of taste, but that his taste was educated in an older school. He had made and lost a large gallery before the present one was commenced, and in gathering that he had formed habits of judgment and solection he could not break through.

These are such pictures as were thought excellent and desirable fifty years ago. They are much such plo tures as one sees in foreign galleries on the continent and in England-neither better nor worse than the productions that adorned the walls of parlors and dining rooms halls and chambers, when the older people among us were young. Some of them are abominably bad; some of hem were, no doubt, reputed exceedingly good in their day; not a few of them strike us as works of noble of tender art. Occasionally a gleam of genuine levelines shines out from among them, making one regret the time

when such things were more common than they are now. As a general thing the subjects are untateresting. The rage then was for classical themes. Gods and reddesses figures the gely. Scours from the from in yhology were popular. Nature was not observed as we observe it, and society was artificial. One looks at scores of these paintings without discovering one touch of pure, natural sen timent. The landscapes are unearthly, and the humani ties are no less so. There was not much appreciation of human character in its best forms; life was throughout artificial, and the artists painted it as they found it; painted it heavy and thick, with coarse lines and strong color, and deep contrasts of light and shade, that gave to all their work, whatever the theme, a distorted look.

The rage for the "old masters" which prevailed a generation ago leaves a strong mark on these galleries. To possess them in the original being impossible, copies were considered better than nothing; poor copies better than good painting by living men. And here we have them-Titian and Rubens, and Caracci, and Verones without doubt original." Kneller, and Reynolds, and Leby, Cuyp, and Teniers, and Jordaens are represented not unfavorably, if we recollect rightly. There are pteresting portraits of the distinguished Court ladies of the time of King Louis XIV. There are two or thre creditable portraits by our older American artists, along with some discreditable ones. A portrait is ascribed to Thomas Gainsborough, one if not more to Copley. The name of Turner is attached to two landscapes, which,

however, are not eminent examples of his skill. Nearly 600 of the pictures numbered in the catalogue bear no name, but are marked " unknown;" among them are some of the best pieces in the collection, a circum stance that suggests carelessness on the part of Mr Thompson himself. More than one of the Bierstadts is nerely "supposed to be his." If the genuineness of paintings so easily authenticated as his can be doubted, our confidence in the genuineness of less easily authenti-cated pictures is considerably shaken. On the whole, the collection had better be judged on its merits. So judged it will be found of rather uncommon excellence for its size and general character. Mr. Thompson was fairly besteged by artists and professional dealers in pictures. He bought freely, paid cash down; he was a good pur chaser, and had all the tricks of the trade practiced or him. But he knew the value of money, and he knew pretty well the market value of paintings; and while it some instances he paid more for a picture than it was worth, he has often paid less.

It should be added that the collection is now for the

first time displayed to the public view. The owner never took pains to arrange them. Occasionally a friend was invited or allowed to visit the rooms where they were be stowed; but beside Mr. Thompson himself, it is doubtful if anybody has seen them all. His death unlocks the treasures that he so jealously guarded from the public eye. Mr. J. H. Young, the director of the Fine Arts Exhibition of the Boston Athenseum, has done his best to catalogue and describe them, and has been more than usually conscientious in assigning to them the place they desarve to hold in the history and the rank of art. Little if any attempt is made to represent the works as being other or better than they are. To reduce the chaos to some sort of order was no slight task; the public must to some sort of order was no slight task; the public must form its own opinion in regard to the beauty of the separate parts. Curiosity-mongers will find many a rare but for their money; collectors will be glad of the opportunity presented for filing up gaps in their departments; connoisseurs will be able to gratify their eccentricities of taste; dealers will pick up morsels for stray customers and there is plenty to interest general buyers of o hat we Americans may be permitted to call "old pictures."

The lovers of the new art, of whatever sensol, will be more attracted to the studies of living men whose best parks will cain in estimation and completity whose conwill gain in estimation and popularity when con with these. The display and the sale of this vas on will improve rather than injure the fortunes o our own artists.

A CARD FROM MRIBIERSTADT. To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin: Will you permit me to utter a protest through your columns against the unwarrantable use of my name in the catalogue of the Thompson Collection just published f Certain pictures are there attributed to me that I never saw, and I am furthermore held responsible for a statement to the effect that such a collection could no

Irrington on the Hudson, Jan. 27, 1879.

YALE COLLEGE EDUCATION.

EVILS OF THE PRESENT SYSTEM-NATURAL EN-MITY BETWEEN STUDENTS AND FACULTY-SCHOLARSHIP MARKS—A BACE FOR STANDING —"SKINNING," ITS VARIETIES AND MANIFES-TATIONS-A PICTURE OF COLLEGE LIFE BY A GRADUATE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sin; For some years past the Alumni and other numerous friends of Yale College have been watchng with interest and anxiety the course of that institu tion in regard to matters of University reform. Since the publication in 1806 of Dr. Reago's article in The Adantic Monthly on this subject there has been unusual activity of thought upon the questions involved therein, and in one institution, at least-Harvard College-de cisive movements made in the direction of reform. Yale, lowever, is a more slowly moving concern apparently No steps have been taken, no movements of importance made, in the correction of abuses which have perhaps of more distinctive character at Yale than at any other col loge in the country. President Woolsey has, to be sure, taken ground against

one absurdity that has from time immemorial been sa fled upon the college in the regulation which makes the Governor and six scalor members of the State Senate c officio Trustees of the institution, and has expressed his willingness to consider the questions of University re form when the time should seem to arrive which would usify important changes. But to him and the Faculty that time seems to have not yet come. The policy of th estitution is that of bearing present ills, rather than fleeing to others which have a possible existence and which they know not of, "Let we'll enough alone," they say, until there is an assurance of something better. But there's the rub. It is a very serious question whether the existing state of affairs in Yale College proper is well enough. For my part, I should decidedly answer that question in the negative, and, as a graduate of the institution, would like to give some reasons therefor. My strictures apply to the Academical Department, and have no special bearing upon the Scientific, Divinity, Law, and Medical Schools. It is fair to judge of a system by it ruits, and in this way I shall attempt to show that the Yale system has been so productive of failure in the attainment of what is desirable in an educational course and of positive evil in various ways, as to call for an attempt, at least, at remedy,

As an educational institution Yale must be regarded in a great measure as a failure. I do not mean to say that Yale does not turn out good schelars, or that all who go through the course are not endowed with a certain de dree of mental training, but what I do say is this: that the true inspirational sentiment of a generous culture, the unadulterated desire of mental trasning for its own sake, not for what it may give in the way of college honors or advantages, has never had any prevailing in fluence in Yale College. This is due to a number of rea sons for the continuance of which, in a large measure the management of the College are responsible. The constitution of things in the Academical Department is such that, noiens voiens, the Faculty and students are placed in relations of natural enmity rather than of friendship. A crowd of young men who desire to enter the institution go every year to New-Haven, and their first experience is an examination by a terrible lot of tutors and professors, which for the most part seems to the applicants like a contestibetween opposting parties the one side endeavoring to effect an admission the other to prevent it. If in any way the examiners can be outwitted or gotten around it is deemed a stroke of good fortune by the applicants for admission. There seems to be not the least idea on their side that both parties should be working for a commoniond and that these teachers ought to be regarded as friends and belpers, instead of opponents. But supposing that a student successful passes the ordeal of examingtion for admission, and finds himself pos of the advantages appertaining unto the estate of a Yale Frishman. The almost inevitable feeling of enmity en gendered by an examination whose purpose seemed to puzzle and perplex rather than in a fair and kindly way to make him show what he knew, is in no way counter acted after his admission to the College. For the first two years of the course, the instruction is given into the hands of tutors whose fitness for the positions they hold is often only that of having graduated at Yale with a high standing in scholarship. These teachers, who are for the most part inexperienced in teaching and unfit for the successful control of the young men who come under their charge, have almost the entire management of the Freshman and Sophomore classes. They conduct the recitations and keep the marks for scholarship, and have the supervision of the manners, morals, and habits of those under them, giving marks for misdemeanors, as well as reproofs and warnings for all sorts of offenses, and attending to excuses for non-performance of duty or other irregularities. They are sometimes men who are entirely unfitted to gain the respect of students, and this, added to want of experience and the natural unpleasant ness of the relation between them and the students, gives rise to the most deplorable results. There is no more disgraceful exhibition than the recitation room of the unpopular and inefficient tutor. I appeal to any graduate of Yale within a dozen years if he has not often ie his college experience witnessed such scenes as this: The turns droning away with some explanation of the second Aorist fcuso or an obscure passage in Horace to a room full of mattentive evons young mon, who knowing the caliber of the au in the tutor's box, and that he has no qualities that compel respect : that he was a more "die" to college, and press their disapproval of him in every way. While he xplains, they amuse themselves with private conversa tion, altercations, and somaboles, or a leg-drill is gotte up behind the seats, or small bonfires started with paper and matches, or any of a thousand tricks and capers car ried on which the fertile ingenuity of students can de vise. This may be the worst side of the picture; but take the best view of instruction given at Yale. Here is a popular and experienced professor. His classes are at ntive and good order marks the recitation. Yet ever here the defects of a deep-laid and antiquated system ap pear. By the regulations of the institution this profesor must mark each recitation and conduct examinations at the close of each term, and assist at a tremendous Annual at the end of the college year. He is made, whether he will or no, a marking machine, and the student is inevitably led to make marks and his college standing in the matter of scholarship the prime motive of his study. This at its best. The true object of education, the development of mind, is forgotten in the race for standing by those three scholars in the class the race is apt to be a close one. and in spite of themselves the candidates for the valedic-tory flud themselves studying for it and not for their own mental benefit. The tendency of all this is, in the case of every student, to make him look out at recitation for the mark he may get therein, not for the benefit he should receive in the proper study of a lesson.

It is to be viewed as a fortunate escape if one, having not prepared a lesson, escapes failure by not being called up to recite. The fact of his mental training being somewhat interfered with doesn't occur to him. He rejoice in the avoidance of a " flunk" and the preservation of his tanding. I have heard the best of students in Yale confess that the motive for study which chiefly influenced them was the desire of a high standing, and not the most advantageous course of mental discipline; and it is just as true of all the rest that they study with this desire in their mind's eye. The good scholars study for a good standing, and the poor scholars that they may have standing enough to enable them to get along and escape "dropping" for poor scholarship. Genuine work from the love of it and what it unturally brings, is an exceedingly rare thing among Yale students.

It is impossible, in anything less than a volume, to conider the full measure of the influences which bring about the sad result of an exceedinly faulty and impefect education. Ask the graduates of Yale how much their Alma Mater has done for them in the way of real mental culture, and you will find that very many feel as though their time had been wasted there, and nearly a feel that had the influences of the place been such as to draw out the desire of culture and foster the spirit of a liberal education, they might have benefited themselves in a much greater degree. Yale College is at the present day hardly more advanced in its system of instruction and discipline than a preparatory academy. It ought to be true that when young men reach the age of 18, which is the average age of Freshmen in Yale, they should be able to take care of themselves, and decide on their own count a great many things which are now decided for them by the Faculty. The truth is that the behavior of oung men depends pretty much on their treatment The Yale Faculty admit that there is little sympathy bestudents recognize very quickly the fact, and accept the

while it does not lessen the desire to get good marks. certainly does increase the disposition to outwit the Faculty in the matter, and get, if possible, a good standing in spite of them, and thus the system of marks which

the expense of the least mental effort. Innocent outsiders have go idea of the vast extent of humburgery and deception which the desire of college standing induces The freshman from the country, verdant from hard and faithful study, and who m nine cases out of ten is "conditioned" upon entering, while the "cuter" specimen from a large preparatory school escapes, is autonished to find things so altogether different after he does get into college from what he had previously thought them. Accustomed to dig out his Latin and Greek by the roots, he finds that in Vale nearly every one rides over them with "ponica." The algebraic problems upon which he expected to expend much midnight kerwene, he finds can all very shortly be solved by calling at the nearest bookstere and buying a "Key." His Euclid be discovers may be conveniently laid open on the floor before him, and behind the smelter of the seat in front, and the propeitions conned over and the corollaries kept in mind citi it comes to him to recite. His history may be used n the same way; and, in short, there is not a study to he Yale course in which a student may not fraudolently senefit himself in the matter of getting a good mark, It would be amusing to collate the numerous and siab. orate devices which this pestiferous system of studying for marks begets. A few which came under my own ob-servation while at Yale, it may be interesting to your readers to hear of, and all Yale men, I doubt not, will recornize and find themselves able to increase the list These devices for obtaining a fictitious and fraudulent standing are all included under the general term of "skinning," a word as familiar to the Yale student as his own name. In fact, the students may be divided into two classes, those who do and those who do not "skin;" and of the aggregate, the first-class comprises probably nine-tenths. The use of "ponies" and "keys" we may term "skinning improper," while "skinning proper" refers to

illieit helps used in the frecitation or examination room

The most ordinary developments of the latter sort are

the opening of books on the floor, or behind a neighbor's

back, or under one's coat, and the carrying into recita

tion or examination room of papers with the desired

It was a neat and effective device when I was in col-

answer or information written out.

was intended as a healthful incentive to study as a mat-

ter of fact does incite to a thousand and one evasions

and devices whereby good standing my be obtained as

ege not many years ago to write on your cuffs or fingernalls even, certain weak points in your preparation for examination which might adroitly be referred to when the tutor or professor was not looking. A small paper with " points" might be inserted under your watch crystal and referred to without suspicion. Numerous papers might, of course, be concealed in the pockets and referred to; but there was always a difficulty in getting hold of the right one, and to overcome that one in ventive genius of my class, I well remember, constructed an ingenious little machine consisting of a couple of rollers working in a frame upon which he wound a band of paper which was inscribed with all the propositions in Loomia's Analytical Geometry. The machine was so small and neatly made that it could be held concented almost in the palm of the hand while the fingers worked the rollers and brought into view whatever proposition was desired. Four individuals in my class, of whom in self-defense I must say that I was not one, by means of this little lestrument necessfully passed examinations which would otherwise have floored them, and a duplicate thereof saved several others, I have been informed. It has often to my knowledge happened that students would at the close of the term cut up their books and shave the leaves close to the print, and carry the mass in bodily in a coat pocket. One of the most ludicrous sights stamped on my memory is one that greeted my gaze on entering the room of a class mate, and which properly gotten up would make the fortune of some college Nast as a cartoon entitled "Preparing for Examination." Scene-room fall of lively stu-dents, armed with shears, selssors, and knives, busily engaged in cutting up text books, and preparing "skinning papers" with book cover paper, shavings, and the miscellaneous debris of work in heaps on the floor. I shall never forget the comical suggestiveness of that scene as compared with the ideal preparation for examination of hard study, midnight oil, and early risings. The demoralizing extent to which frauds of these sorts are carried on would aston ish an outsider, unacquainted with the state of affairs in Yale College. The efforts to outwit the examiners have, within the past year, culminated in an enterprise of great oth and moment, which was nothing less than the brib ng of some one about the College printing office, which has always been most strenuously guarded, to furnish copies of the examination papers in advance to the students. The project defeated itself, however, inasmuch as the extraordinary examination passed by the cutire

where, and a new examination was ordered.

Now, all this frand and deception would be comical nough if it could be considered without regard to its motives and results, but it is equally serious when viewed as the natural outgrowth of a system of study which makes the attainment of standing its chief motive power, and which results in the fostering of careless, slovenly and unprincipled habits of study, and an education that

class was proof positive that there had been a leak some-

falls lamentably short of what it might be. I have endeavored in what I have said to give a fair inde view of the state of affairs in Yale with reference to its system of study. It appears to me that the evils which attend it are great, and that they result in a large measure from the considerations which I have touched upon, namely, the want of sympathy between the students and Faculty, and the influence of unworth; motive in study. I am not prepared to say that any given course of action will advantageously remedy the evil, but that there is evil that needs remedy, no one who knows anything about that subject will pretend to deay the abolition of the system of marks for scholarship would of course, do away with the resultant evils, and the ques ion is whether new ones would be introduced as bad. For my part, I think not. I confess to certain ideas with regard to education, which might be considered Utopuan by the Yale Faculty, to the effect that young men who have reached the age of eighteen and upward, can best be developed by allowing them to think and act for themselves, and by trusting them to study for their own good, without imposing upon them the condition of looking out for their marks. The present system, by presuming their unfitness to do fact demoralizes them to a considerable de-

fact demoralizes them to a considerable de-gree. If they had the responsibility thrown upon them as selecting their studies and pursuing them as they thought best, it would certainly have a tendency to make them carnest and sincere in their efforts, and if the periodous motive of marks were out of the way, the temptation to deception, fraud, and fictitions a quitemous would be almost entirely zone. It it supposed by the management of the College that the stimulus of standing and the fear of being dropped are requisite to keep a large class of students up to a fair mediacrity of attanment, but it is not known from actual trial to such an institution what effect it would have on thoughtless yourns, who under the present constitution of things seem to feel that all that is necessary for them to do is to keep their slanding up to the medium, by hook or crook, and whether they will be turned out of the codlege well educated men, if they should have thrown upon themselves the responsibility of deciding what they should study and how much. Of course there are difficulties in the way of a reform in these matters, but the question is whether the present state of affairs does not call for a change of some sort. Standing still is not calculated to better the exis which now exist, and that seems to be the present policy of Yales College. I don't wish to be understood as charging upon the Faculty of the College the responsibility of these wells in their educational system, except so far us they can be held accountable for not bettering them. Yale has a traditional life which has come down from the last century, which hangs heavy over it, and makes all changes.

traditional life which has come down from the last contury, which hangs heavy over it, and makes all changes
slow and cautions. Its joints seem stiff with precedent,
and new ideas are taken like unpleasant medicine, with
great reluctance; but unless Yare bestirs itself in some
direction, it is likely to be left in the larch by other and
more enterprising institutions.

I have endeavored to give a fair presentation of some
of the more prominent evils in the Yare educational system, and without making the present management of the
institution directly responsible for them, would only sufgest that they should make some effort of the analoration of evils which they themselves inneat and believe
lineapable of present remedy,

New-Tork, Jan. 17, 1870.

FAIR PLAY FOR THE TEACHERS.

New-York, Jan. 17, 1870.

To the Editor of The Tribune. SIR: The Board of Education recently adopted a rule, "as a measure of economy," forbidding Inspectors of Schools and Boards of Trustees to excuse the absence of tenchers for more than five days (instead of thirty) for any cause whatever. An application was recently made to the Board of Education for the salary of a faithful teacher, absent on account of sickness, who a faithful teacher, absent on account of sickness, who resulted in her death. The Board paid her shary, he published in its minutes a resolution that it was so per ou account of the indigence of the teacher's point in the publication, and the new rule, caused much dignation among the 2,600 femining teachers of the other. This publication, and the new rule, caused unter the dig nation among the 2,600 feminus teachers of the recity, and caused the inquiry to be made whether the rule applied to all the employes of the Board of Education. The reply was that it only applied to teachers. The question arose, why the Board adopted a rule that was so unfair to teachers, when its chief clerk, with a salary of \$7,000 a year was permitted to spend four months in Albany, to put more money in his purse. The teachers learned that the Board did not dore to interfere which imports the salary of \$7,000 a year was sone Mr. Peter B. Sween's triend, and that the Board of Education was a creature of the "Tammany Ring," and that a majority of the Board heid very remunerative positions or contracts under the "Ring." The teachers then inquired if the five days rule was enforced in the case of any of the remunerative offices held by the Commissioners, or in any of the departments. The answer was "How many of the alleged employés are never seen except on 'pay days.' Now, Mr. Editor, we teachers think that School inspectors like James W. Gerard, Andrew Mills, James Keily, and their associates, and the Trustees, who visit the schools daily, are competent to decide as to the propriety of excessing absences. But, if it must be otherwise, we most respectfully insist that the rule he made applicable to all the employes of the Board of Education.

New York, Jan. 25, 1876.

now be made for less than half a million of dollars. I did say, on being shown a dozen or more at Mr. Thompson's tween them and the students of the College, and lament say, on being shown a dozen or more at Mr. Thompson's private house, that if the others were all as good they ought to bring that sum. These few were all valuable works by the best masters. I had not seen the rest of the collection; but when I did vist it some time later I dd not find one of these master's names represented. It is true that Mr. Thompson bought a few of my earliest sketches, made before I thought of becoming an ait list, as the public will see if they take the trouble to examine them, but there are others, as I said before, that are falsely attributed to me.

Not long since a distinguished banker invited me to his house to inspect a picture bought at one of these anction sales for one of mure; he had begun to have dombts about its being genuine, as it did not bear my signature! I need hardly add that I saw it for the first time on his walls. the fact, and consider themselves unable to help it. The situation without much reasoning upon it, and there is consequently little cooperation between the two parties of the six weeks when ready to return to work be found two of his shares gone and only a part of the cooperative store.

The store at Charlestown is the best example of co-operation on a large scale with which have met. It was originally organized in September, 1864, under the old club system.

September, 1864, under the old club system. Such regulations are calculated to redee to some one who could have sold his bed under him, or been forced to go to the hospital, an object of charity and a burden to the State. Such regulations are calculated to rive the stocks a value to workingmen which no others possess, and these have amount to be adopted by all cooperative associations. for what should be the true object of a college course. The system of sobolarship marks I have already shown in itself gives a wrong bias to the mind of the student. and the fact that these marks are dispensed by a Faculty toward whom they have a feeling of natural enmity